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By the King.

A Proclamation concerning New Buildings,
in and about the Citie of London, and against the diui-
ding of houses into feuerall dwellings, and receiuing and har-
bouring of Inmates.



Hereas in the first yeere of Our Reigne, as soone as the more important affaires of Our State would giue Us leaue, taking in- to Our Princely consideration the state of Our Citie of London, being Our Royall Chamber, and the Imperiall seate of Our King- domes, renowned ouer all the parts of Christendome, both in re- spect of the vsuall residence of Our Royall Person and Court neere vnto it, the confluence of Forreigne Ambassadors and Stran- gers thither, the ordinary place for Our Courts of Justice, and re- sort of our Nobilitie and Gentry there for these occasions;

And foreseeing that the honour, gouernment, health and safety of this Citie, was of great consequence vnto Us, and that Our Royall Progenitors in former times (especially Our most Royall Father of blessed memory, King IAMES, & the most Excellent Princesse Queene ELIZABETH, in their times) by their Royall Proclamations had carefully provided for the same, wee, according to those worthy examples, by Our Royall Proclamation did straitly pro- uide against the erecting of houses & Buildings vpon new Foundations, & the entertaining of Inmates, in and about this City, which would multiply the Inhabitants to such an excessive number, that they could neither be gouerned nor fedd; And did also thereby giue Rules for the Repairing and new Building of ancient houses decayed, in such a comely manner, with Bricke or Stone, as might bee for the honour and safety of the Citie; And for the putting of this Our Commandement into due execution, wee did make, and seuerall times renew Our Commission directed to the Lord Mayor of our said Citie, and diuers other persons of honour and worth, grounding the same vpon rules of Law and Justice, as against publique and common Rulances, aswell as vpon reason of State and Gouernement, all tending to

the publique good of Our people: But that taking not so full effect hitherto as wee expected, wee haue now againe resolved to renew that Our Commission to diuers Honourable persons, and others of worth and vnderstanding; And therefore wee doe heereby publish and declare Our Royall pleasure and Command, That Our said Commissioners for that seruice, shall forthwith aswell by taking a view in their owne persons from time to time, as by all other good wayes and meanes, enquire and finde out the offenders and offences done against the seuerall Proclamations made heretofore by Our said Father, and by Our Selve, as against this present Proclamation, and the same being so found out, to make certificate thereof vnder their hands, or vnder the hands of two or more of them, to Our Counsell Board, or to binde them ouer to answer their contempts, either before the Lords of Our Priue Councell, or in Our Court of Starchamber, to the end that such proceeding may bee had against them, as may stand with Our Honour and with Our Lawes.

And for stay and prevention of the like offenses hereafter, Our expresse Will and pleasure is, That where any person shall presume after the publication of this Proclamation, to erect, or let by in any kind whatsoever, any Building vpon new Foundation within the limits of three miles, from any of the Gates of the Citie of London or Palace of Westminster; That the Owners of the Building so begun, and all the workemen therein employed, shall forthwith by force and vertue of Our Royall Commandement (without expecting any other or further Warrant) be attached, & brought before some of Our said Commissioners and Iustices of Peace whom wee also hereby require and command, to commit them to Prison, vntill they shall find sufficient sureties for stay of their said Building, as also for their appearance before the Lords of Our Priue Councell, or in our high Court of Starchamber, to answer such their contempts, and to vndergoe such Sentence, as by that Court shall bee giuen against them.

And for such as shall hereafter Reedifie or build vpon old Foundations in any other sort then is prescribed in Our former Proclamations, and by the Instructions herein expressed; That aswell all such Builders, as the workemen therein employed, shall bee attached likewise and proceeded withall as aforesaid.

And whereas by Our former Proclamation wee charged and commanded the Aldermen of the Citie of London, and their Deputies, in their seuerall Wards and Precincts, as likewise the Iustices of Peace, High and Petie Constables, and all other inferiour Officers within their seuerall limits & Jurisdictions, happening within the seuerall Counties of Middlesex, Essex, Kent, and Surrey, That they and euery of them in their seuerall places and Offices respectiue, should diligently and duely attend to giue their vitermost ayde, helpe, and assistance according to their dueties, for the due obseruance to see this Our Royall pleasure (so much concerning the publique good) to be duely executed and performed; And where they or any of them should finde any offence to be committed against any Branch or Article of the said Proclamation, to make stay thereof, and certifie the Commissioners or the Lords of Our Priue Councell of the said offences and offenders, it being now manifest, that many of the said offences haue beene committed and done by the negligence or conuincie of some of the Aldermens Deputies within the Citie of London, & other inferiour Officers in the

Counties adiacent, in not attending Our Commandement by timely staying the proceeding of such new buildings.

Wee therefore doe hereby declare Our Will and pleasure to be, That where any Building shall bee begun contrary to this Our Proclamation, wee will take a strict account thereof, aswell from the said Aldermen, as the Iustices of Peace aforesaid, happening within their severall limits and Jurisdictions.

And further Our Will and pleasure is, That aswell the Aldermens Deputies in their severall Precincts, as the High and Petie Constables, and Headboroughs, and other inferiour Officers in their severall Parishes, and dwelling in or neere to the place where any such new Building shall happen to be begun, contrary to the Tenour of this Our Proclamation; And they or some of them not attaching the person or persons so Offending, and not bringing them befoze some of Our Commissioners as aforesaid, That euery such Aldermans Deputy, high Constable, petie Constable and Headborough, or other inferiour Officers, shall bee not onely remooued from their severall Places and Offices, but bee committed to the common Gaole of the Citie of London, and Counties of Middlesex, Essex, Kent, and Surry, respectiueely where such offence or offences shall be committed; And euery of them to be bound with good sureties for his and their good behaviour for one whole yeere then after, to the end that by such their punishment, others may learne the better to performe their duties in this Our Service.

And to the end that such as doe conforme in their building to the order and forme prescribed by Us, may receive due encouragement by hauing their Materials at reasonable Rates and Prices, which wee are informed is much inhanced and raised from the Prices formerly set by Our Commissioners: It is therefore Our Will and pleasure, That Our Commissioners for Buildings doe call befoze them all and euery the Brickmakers, and Limeburners within three miles distant of London, as also such as doe bring any of the said Materials by land or Water to the Citie of London, or the places neere adioyning, and doe take order from time to time aswell for the reducing of the Prices thereof to former, vsuall and reasonable Rates, or otherwise according to their good discretions to be by them set, as also for the present and speedy suppressing of all and euery the Nusances by them daily committed in their severall professions of Brick-making and Lime-burning so neere the Citie of London, and the parts and places adioyning thereunto, and for the selling of those Materials at and for reasonable Rates and Prices, according to the Articles hereafter following.

First, wee doe strictly charge and command, That no dwelling Houses, Stables, Shops, Stalles, or any other Building whatsoever, bee from hencefoorth erected, or attempted to bee erected within the Citie of London, or the Suburbs thereof, or within the distance of three miles to bee taken from any Gate of the said Citie, or from Our Palace at Westminster, except it bee vpon the Foundation of a former dwelling house, or such like Building; And if any such Building contrary to this Prohibition shall hereafter happen to be begunne, that the same be forthwith stayed from further proceeding, by the Alderman of the Ward, or by two of the next Iustices of Peace, and aswell such Builder, as the Workemen employed therein, committed to Prison, vntill they shall enter into sufficient Bond, either to demolish, and pull downe that which is built, or to answer their contempt in our high Court of Star Chamber, or befoze the Lords of the Privy Councell at the Councell Board, And the Constable of the Parish or Place, shall from time to time in the first beginning of any

such worke or building, giue notice to the Alderman of the ward, or two next Iustices of Peace, of any such offence, and of the offenders therein, that this Proclamation may be speedily and freshly put in execution, All Houses, Sheds, Shops, and other Buildings, which haue beene builded or set vp within the limits aforesaid, at any time sithence the thirteenth yeere of the Reigne of Our said late Father King IAMES of blessed memory, contrary to any Proclamation published in his time, shall be forthwith pulled downe, as is before directed touching other Buildings to be stayed or pulled downe, and no Cellars erected within the time last mentioned, to be vsed for Lodgings or victualing Houses, but the Occupiers thereof to bee suppressed, and so to be kept by the Iustices of Peace.

That no person or persons doe Erect, Reedifie, or set vp any house, or Building in London, or within the distance of three miles from any the Gates of the said Citie of London, or from Our said Palace at Westminster, vnlesse hee doe make all the vtter Walles of the same of Brick, or Brick and Stone; And that all Houses and Buildings to bee erected within the said Citie, or in, or adioyning to any open Streete of any Towne or Village out of the said Citie, within the limits of three miles aforesaid, shall be built according to the forme and proportion hereafter in these presents expressed: (viz.) Every whole Story of and in such Houses and Buildings, and all and euery the Roomes of such whole Story, shall be of the height of tenne foote of Assize at the least, and euery halfe Story of and in such Houses and Buildings, shall be of the height of seven foote and a halfe at the least; And that in the forefront, and all outward and diuision Walles betwixt house and house, and the Jambs, Heads and soyles of the Windowes shall be of Brick, or of Brick and Stone, and the Windowes (being of Timber) not to bee put in vntill the Jambs and Heads aforesaid bee finished, and beare of themselves.

And if the said buildings doe not exceede two Stories in height, then the Walles thereof shall be of the thicknesse of one Brick and halfe a Bricks length according to the assize of Bricks hereunder mentioned, from the ground vnto the vppermost part of the said Wall; And where the building shall be of the height of three Stories, the Wall of the first Story shall be of the thicknesse of two Bricks length, and from thence vnto the vppermost part of the Wall of the thicknesse of one Brick and halfe a bricks length, and so proportionably, if there shall bee more Stories.

That, in building of the said Houses there shall bee no Jutties or Jutting, or Cant Windowes, either vpon Timber Joist, or otherwise, but the Wall to goe direct and straight vpwards, and at the setting of, a water table to bee made; Also the lights of the Windowes of euery whole Story to be of more height then breadth, to the end the Roomes may receiue ayre for health, and there may be sufficient Peeres of Brick, not lesse then halfe the breadth of the Windowes betweene them for strength; And likewise the Windowes of euery halfe Story to bee made square euery way, or neere thereabouts.

That all Shops and Streete doores bee made with Pillasters of Stone or Brick, to be in breadth fiftene inches at the least, and as thicke as the Wall of the Story, and the heads of the Shop Windowes cut in wedges, with Arches ouer them to sustaine the Wall aboue; And that none doe raise their first floore to gaine height in their Cellars, so as they are thereby forced to make steppes into the streete; Provided alwayes, that for so much as concerneth the building with Brick or Stone, shall not extend to any Buildings vpon London Bridge, which by reason of the situation thereof cannot with conueniencie be so built.

And for the better encouragement of Our louing Subjects in their Buildings, according to the direction of this Proclamation: wee haue thought fit to set downe these orders following concerning the true making and rating of the price of Brick, which is one of the principall Materials requisite for the said buildings: (viz.)

That the earth whereof the Brick shall bee made, bee good and fit for that purpose. The first digging thereof to bee betweene the Feasts of S. Michael the Archangel, and S. Thomas

the Apostle, and the second digging, casting, or turning vp of the said earth, to be at, or before the last day of February then following; And that no person whatsoever doe presume to digge or make any Bricke in any place within one mile of the Gates of the said Citie of London, or within one mile of Our Palace of Westminster.

That the said earth be sufficiently and well wrought and tempered before it be moulded, and the Brickmakers cause no earth to be moulded for Bricke, but onely betweene the Feast of the Annunciation of the blessed Virgin Mary, and the last day of August yeerely, and at no other time or season of the yeere.

That in the moulding of the said Bricke, the Moulds bee thoroughly and well filled, and not set in the Moulds in the laying downe; And that they be sufficiently and well dyed before they be put into the Kilne, and then carefully and thoroughly well burned, so as for the assize euery Bricke being burned containe in length nine inches, in bredth foure inches one quarter and halfe a quarter of an inch, and in thiknesse two inches and one quarter of an inch.

That the price of Bricks (being thus wrought and made in goodnesse, size, and manner as aforesaid) shall not excede the rate of eight shillings the thousand at the Kilne; And if any excessive rate be demanded for the carriage of the said Bricks from the Kilne to the place where they shall be to be vsed, the Commissioners for buildings to moderate the same, according to equity in their good discretions; And that no person or persons shall make, or cause to be made, within five miles of any of the Gates of the Citie of London, nor bring by Water or land, or bttre, sell, or put to sale within the said Citie, or any place or places within five miles thereof, as aforesaid, any Bricks made or wrought contrary to the directions aforesaid, nor sell the same at any higher rate then is before mentioned.

That no person or persons within the said Citie of London, or within three miles from any the Gates thereof, or from Our Palace of Westminster, shall in defrauding the intent of this Proclamation, support or strengthen any Buildings so ruinous and old, as are vnfit to be continued, by digging of Cellars, and bringing vp new bricke-walles, by erecting new Chimneyes and Staire-cases, by placing of pieces of Timber, by setting on new Roofes or Rafteres, and thrusting out of Dormers, knitting and fastning together the said new additions vnto the old Timber, by Barres and Crampes of Iron, or other like devices, vnlesse hee or they shall bee thereunto licensed and allowed by Our Commissioners for Buildings.

That no person or persons within the limits last aforesaid, do at any time or times hereafter presume or attempt, to erect, couer, ouerlay, or inclose any Houels, or others Sheds of Timber, with Reedes, Faggots, Hay, Straw, Boards, or other Materials, or doe raise by any wall, pale, or banke of earth, to which Sheds may bee added, or doe repaire or new make into the Streets, any manner of bulkes, stalles, windowes, doores, or other offensive issues, or doe alter or change the vse of any dwelling house, or other building, to any more noysome or offensive vse, end, or purpose then the same was imployed before the time of the demolishing or altering the same, without the speciall licence and allowance of the sayd Commissioners for buildings. And for that the diuiding of houses into seuerall tenements and habitations, and the letting part of houses and chambers to Inmates and vnderlitters, is no lesse inconvenient then excessive buildings, as well in regard of surcharge of people, especially of the worst sort, and for breeding and spreading of infection, as otherwise, wee doe also command these Articles following to bee duely obserued.

That no person or persons within the Citie of London, or three miles from any the Gates thereof, doe diuide any dwelling house by Lease, sufferance, or otherwise, into, or for any more tenements or dwellings then are at this present, or haue beene heretofore vsed within the same by the space of thirty yeeres last past.

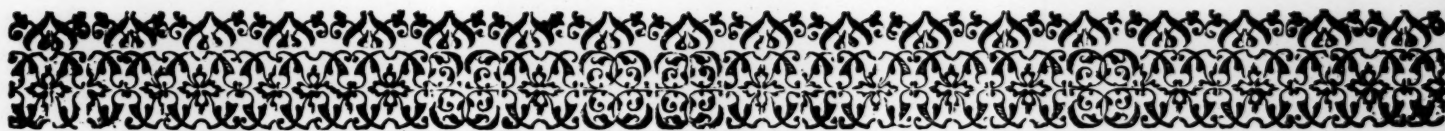
That no person doe hereafter receiue into any house, any Inmates or vnderlitters, or any more Families then one.

That no person or persons who shall erect a new house upon, or within the precincts of an old foundation, shall divide the same into more Tenements, or severall dwellings then were used in the said former houses.

By the due observation of which severall Articles, as the uniformitie of the buildings will bring much honour to the City, & grace and ornament, both to the streets thereof, and to the neighbour towne; so the building with Brick or Stone will be more durable, and more safe from the danger and casualty of fire: & withall the reducing of all sorts of houses to this order, and the present removing of Inmates and underlitters according to this direction, will in short time discontinue, and take away the many Cottages, Sheds, and base places of habitations in By-lanes, and backe Streets, whereby the City, Suburbes, and Confines will become more sutable, and lesse subject to that danger of sicknesse and infection, which by the unwholsome pestering of multitudes of poore people together, is now threatned against the same. And therefore we upon mature, and deliberate consideration taken of the premises, doe straitly charge and command, all and every person & persons, of whatsoever degree, quality, or condition he or they be: That he, they, and every of them, doe well and truly observe and keepe, all and singular the Articles before specified, in all things to them respectively belonging, as they will avoid Our high displeasure, and such further penalties and punishments, as their contempts and neglects herein shall demerit, and by Our Prerogative royall, or otherwise may be inflicted upon them.

Given at Our Court at Nonsuch: the sixteenth day of Iuly, in the sixth yeere of Our Reigne of Great Britaine, France and Ireland.

God saue the King.



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